

REMARKS

The last Office Action of February 3, 2010 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-13, 15-16 are pending in the application. Claims 4-6 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claim 17 has been added. Support for the subject matter of claim 17 can be found in the sole Figure. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Record is also made of a telephone interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on March 18, 2010. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed on the basis of proposed amendment to the claim language. More specifically, applicant amended sole independent claim 4 to add further limitations regarding the structure of the barrier, as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments to claim 4 appear to be distinguishable over the prior art of record; however, an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of claim 4.

As a result of the interview, applicant now submits amendments to claim 4, which are drawn up in accordance with the agreement at the interview. In addition, claims 5-6 have been amended to make them consistent with the changes to claim 4. Claim 7 has now been canceled. Claim 17 has been added to encompass the full scope and breadth of the invention.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested

that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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